

REMARKS

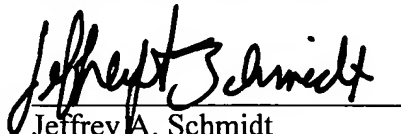
Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. New claims 16-21 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In light of the telephone interview conducted on July 20, 2006, Applicants have amended claim 1, and have added new claims 16-21 so as to specifically recite the configurations of the guide elements that produce a difference in stiffness in two different areas of the slider. These specific configurations are not taught or suggested by either Yamaguchi or Yanagisawa either taken alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Schmidt
Registration No. 41,574

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 7, 2006